



(19)

(11) Publication number:

Generated Document.

## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(21) Application number: 08039828

(51) Int'l. Cl.: G06F 17/60 G09C 1/00 G01/00 H04L 9/08 H04L 9/30  
12/14 H04M 11/08 H04M 1 H04N 7/167

(22) Application date: 27.02.96

(30) Priority:

(43) Date of application publication: 05.09.97

(84) Designated contracting states:

(71) Applicant: CANON INC

(72) Inventor: IWAMURA KEIICHI

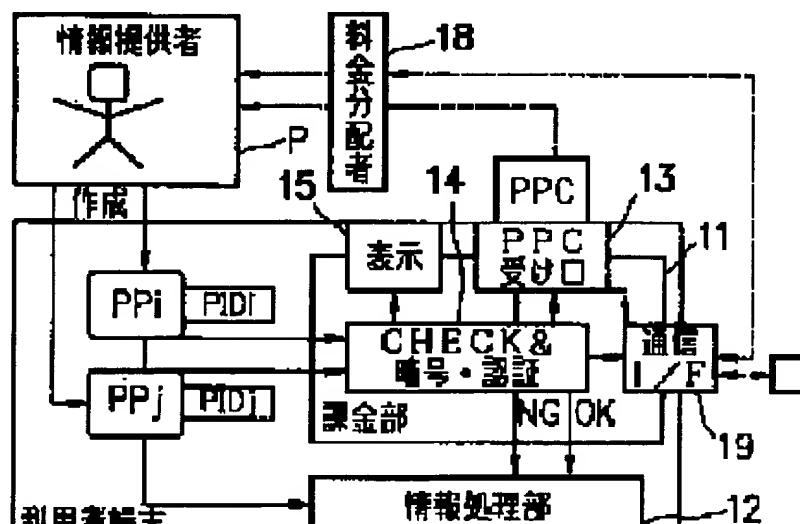
(74) Representative:

### (54) CHARGING DEVICE, COMMUNICATION DEVICE, AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To charge a user while protecting the privacy of the user and facilitating management and a procedure as to a multimedia network which transmits ciphered information.

SOLUTION: At a user terminal 10, a user inserts cash or cash information PPC such as an IC card into a reception slot 13 to pay charge. A decision part 14 collates the charge that information characteristic data PID, attached to ciphered provided information PP sent from an information provider P through the network, with the paid cash



information PPC to decide whether the provided information PP is allowed to be used. According to the decision result about whether the information can be used or not, an information processing part 12 processes the provided information PP and provides it for the user in the form of a video signal and an audio signal. Further, charge payment by a charge defrayer 20 such as a bank which has made a contract with the user is guaranteed.

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